

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:	Art Unit:
Karl REINITZ	Examiner:
Application Number:	Attorney Docket Number: 0121
Filed:	
For: SURGICAL SUTURING APPARATUS	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22312-1450

Sir:

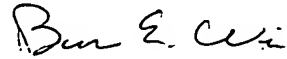
Attached hereto are Form PTO/SB/08A and Form PTO/SB/08B, each listing documents believed relevant to the subject application. The applicant respectfully requests that the examiner consider these documents and return an initialed copy of each form to the undersigned.

A copy of each listed document is enclosed. Some of the documents may have markings thereon. The applicant does not intend that any significance be attached to these markings. These documents are not necessarily analogous art.

The applicant believes that this disclosure complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, and the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure § 609. If for some reason the examiner believes otherwise, the applicant respectfully requests that the undersigned be contacted so that any deficiencies can be remedied. This disclosure

statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a) exists.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: 26 November 2003

Bruce E. Weir
Registration No. 48,191

Bruce E. Weir
Attorney at Law
12 Sparrow Valley Court
Montgomery Village, MD 20886
Telephone: (301) 977-6009
Facsimile: (301) 977-6009
E-mail: bweir@bruceweir.com

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	
Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	REINITZ
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	0121

Sheet 1 of 2

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 5,273,053	12-28-1993	Pohndorf	
		US- 5,374,275	12-20-1994	Bradley et al.	
		US- 5,403,328	04-04-1995	Shallman	
		US- 5,431,666	07-11-1995	Sauer et al.	
		US- 5,437,680	08-01-1995	Yoon	
		US- 5,468,251	11-21-1995	Buelna	
		US- 5,613,975	03-25-1997	Christy	
		US- 5,632,752	05-28-1997	Buelna	
		US- 5,662,663	09-02-1997	Shallman	
		US- 5,665,096	09-09-1997	Yoon	
		US- 5,690,652	11-25-1997	Wurster et al.	
		US- 5,776,148	07-07-1998	Christy	
		US- 5,824,009	10-20-1998	Fukuda et al.	
		US- 5,827,291	10-27-1998	Fucci et al.	
		US- 5,830,125	11-03-1998	Scribner et al.	
		US- 5,830,220	11-03-1998	Wan et al.	
		US- 5,876,412	03-02-1999	Piraka	
		US- 5,904,692	05-18-1999	Steckel et al.	
		US- 5,908,426	06-01-1999	Pierce	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	
Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	REINITZ
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	0121

Sheet **2** of **2****U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 5,919,199	07-06-1999	Mers Kelly et al.	
		US- 5,948,001	09-07-1999	Larsen	
		US- 6,059,800	05-09-2000	Hart et al.	
		US- 6,077,278	06-20-2000	Mayer	
		US- 6,110,183	08-29-2000	Cope	
		US- 6,113,610	09-05-2000	Poncet	
		US- 6,152,936	11-28-2000	Christy et al.	
		US- 6,283,979 B1	09-04-2001	Mers Kelly et al.	
		US- 6,306,158 B1	10-23-2001	Bartlett	
		US- 6,322,570 B1	11-27-2001	Matsutani et al.	
		US- 6,332,889 B1	12-25-2001	Sancoff et al.	
		US- 6,346,111 B1	02-12-2002	Gordon et al.	
		US- 6,355,050 B1	03-12-2002	Andreas et al.	
		US- 6,443,962 B1	09-03-2002	Gaber	
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)		Complete if Known	
		Application Number	
		Filing Date	
		First Named Inventor	REINITZ
		Art Unit	
		Examiner Name	
Sheet 1	of 1	Attorney Docket Number	0121

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
	AA	AUTHOR UNKNOWN, "Inlet Closure Procedure Kit," sales brochure for Inlet Medical Inc., publication date unknown.	
	AB	ELASHRY, "Comparative Study of Pirt-Closure Techniques Following Laparoscopic Surgery," Journal of the American College of Surgeons, 1996, 183:335-344.	
	AC		
	AD		
	AE		
	AF		
	AG		
	AH		
	AJ		
	AK		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
--------------------	--	-----------------	--

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 120 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.